

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A laryngeal mask airway comprising:

a curved tubular guide for insertion through a patient's mouth and into the patient's airway, said guide having a distal opening to abut the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis and a proximal opening remaining outside the patient's mouth after insertion of the guide, said guide allowing insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide to a position past the patient's larynx;

a sealing ring within the guide adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide providing a seal around the endotracheal tube as the endotracheal tube is inserted along the guide;

a laryngeal mask surrounding the distal opening of the guide to substantially seal the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis about the distal opening of the guide; and

a ventilation port adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide to supply a flow of air/oxygen through the guide and the patient's larynx into the patient's lungs during insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide.

2. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 further comprising a removable guide cap to substantially seal the proximal opening of the guide during insertion of the guide.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the ventilation port further comprises a rotatable collar surrounding the proximal portion of the guide, thereby allowing the ventilation port to be rotated to any desired orientation about the guide.

5. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises:

a lower portion shaped to substantially block the patient's esophagus below the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis; and

an upper portion surrounding the distal opening of the guide and substantially filling the patient's laryngopharynx adjacent to the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis, wherein the laryngeal mask directs the guide along the patient's airway so that the distal opening of the guide abuts the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis.

6. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the guide further comprising comprises a distal tip having an anterior portion with a protrusion ~~extending from an anterior portion of the distal tip of the guide~~ to push against the patient's vallecula and thereby lift the patient's epiglottis from the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis.

7. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises opposing side portions to pinch the patient's epiglottis between the side portions of the laryngeal mask as the guide is inserted into the patient's laryngopharynx to thereby lift the epiglottis from the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis.

8. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the laryngeal mask is inflatable.

9. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the laryngeal mask comprises a soft, resilient material.

10. (currently amended) A laryngeal mask airway comprising:

a curved tubular guide for insertion through a patient's mouth and into the patient's airway, said guide having a distal opening to abut the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis and a proximal opening remaining outside the patient's

mouth after insertion of the guide, said guide allowing insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide to a position past the patient's larynx; and

a laryngeal mask surrounding the distal opening of the guide to substantially seal the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis in fluid communication with the distal opening of the guide, said laryngeal mask having:

(a) a lower portion shaped to substantially block the patient's esophagus below the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis and align the distal opening of the guide with the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis; and

(b) an upper portion surrounding the distal opening of the guide and substantially filling the patient's laryngopharynx adjacent to the ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis, so that the distal opening of the guide is axially aligned with and abuts the patient's ~~laryngeal-inlet~~ glottis on end as the guide is inserted along the patient's airway and is sealed in fluid communication with the patient's ~~laryngeal~~ inlet glottis by the laryngeal mask.

11. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 further comprising a removable guide cap to substantially seal the proximal opening of the guide during insertion of the guide.

12. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 further comprising a ventilation port adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide to supply a flow of air/oxygen through the guide and the patient's larynx into the patient's lungs during insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide.

13. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 wherein the guide is contoured to the shape of the patient's mouth and airway.

14. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 wherein the distal opening of the guide is beveled to substantially match the angle of the ~~laryngeal~~ inlet glottis.

15. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 further comprising a sealing ring with the guide adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide providing a loose seal around the endotracheal tube as the endotracheal tube is inserted along the guide.

16. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 wherein the guide further comprising comprises a distal tip having an anterior portion with a protrusion ~~extending from an anterior portion of the distal tip of the guide~~ to push against the patient's vallecula and thereby lift the patient's epiglottis from the laryngeal inlet glottis.

17. (currently amended) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 10 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises opposing side portions to pinch the patient's epiglottis between the side portions of the laryngeal mask as the guide is inserted into the patient's laryngopharynx to thereby lift the patient's epiglottis from the laryngeal inlet glottis.

18. (currently amended) A laryngeal mask airway comprising:

a curved tubular guide for insertion through a patient's mouth and into the patient's airway to allow insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide and through the patient's larynx, said guide having a distal opening to abut the patient's ~~laryngeal inlet~~ glottis and a proximal opening remaining outside the patient's mouth after insertion of the guide;

a sealing ring within the guide adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide providing a seal around the endotracheal tube as the endotracheal tube is inserted along the guide; and

a laryngeal mask surrounding the distal opening of the guide to substantially seal the ~~laryngeal inlet~~ glottis about the distal opening of the guide, said laryngeal mask having:

(a) a support member extending from the distal end the guide and having a tip extending into the patient's esophagus;

~~(b) a protrusion to push against the patient's vallecula and thereby lift the epiglottis from the laryngeal inlet as the guide is inserted into the patient's laryngopharynx;~~

~~(e) (b)~~ a lower portion extending from the support member that is shaped to substantially block the patient's esophagus below the patient's ~~laryngeal inlet~~ glottis and align the distal opening of the guide with the patient's ~~laryngeal inlet~~ glottis as the guide is advanced along the patient's airway; and

~~(d) (c)~~ an upper portion extending from the support member and surrounding the distal opening of the guide to substantially fill the patient's laryngopharynx adjacent to the glottis ~~laryngeal inlet, said upper portion having opposing side portions to pinch the patient's epiglottis and thereby lift the epiglottis from the laryngeal inlet, so that the distal opening of the guide abuts the patient's laryngeal inlet as the guide is advanced along the patient's airway and is sealed in fluid communication with the patient's laryngeal inlet;~~ and

a ventilation port adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide to supply a flow of air/oxygen through the guide and the patient's larynx into the patient's lungs during insertion of an endotracheal tube along the guide.

19. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 wherein the ventilation port further comprises a rotatable collar surrounding the proximal portion of the guide, thereby allowing the ventilation port to be rotated to any desired orientation about the guide.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 further comprising a removable guide cap to substantially seal the proximal opening of the guide during insertion of the guide.

22. (original) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 wherein the laryngeal mask is inflatable.

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 1 wherein the laryngeal mask is shaped to axially align the distal opening of the guide with the patient's glottis on end as the guide is inserted along the patient's airway.

28. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 wherein the lower portion of the laryngeal mask is shaped to axially align the distal opening of the guide with the patient's glottis on end as the guide is inserted along the patient's airway.

29. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises a protrusion to push against the patient's vallecula and thereby lift the epiglottis from the laryngeal inlet as the guide is inserted into the patient's laryngopharynx.

30. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 18 wherein the upper portion of the laryngeal mask further comprises opposing side portions to pinch the patient's epiglottis and thereby lift the epiglottis from the glottis, so that the distal opening of the guide abuts the patient's glottis as the guide is advanced along the patient's airway and is sealed in fluid communication with the patient's glottis.

31. (new) A laryngeal mask airway comprising:

a curved tubular guide for insertion through a patient's mouth and into the patient's airway and allowing insertion of an endotracheal tube through the guide, said guide having a distal opening defining an axis for advancing an endotracheal tube beyond the guide, and a proximal opening remaining outside the patient's mouth after insertion of the guide;

a support member extending from the outer curvature of the distal opening of the guide in a direction substantially parallel to, and offset from the axis of the distal opening of the guide; and

a laryngeal mask surrounding the support member and distal opening of the guide to substantially seal the patient's glottis about the distal opening of the guide and axially align the distal opening of the guide with the patient's glottis on end as the guide is inserted along the patient's airway, thereby enabling an endotracheal tube to be advanced axially from the distal opening of the guide into the patient's trachea.

32. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 31 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises:

a lower portion shaped to substantially block the patient's esophagus below the patient's glottis; and

an upper portion surrounding the distal opening of the guide and substantially filling the patient's laryngopharynx adjacent to the glottis, wherein the laryngeal mask directs the guide along the patient's airway so that the distal opening of the guide abuts the patient's glottis.

33. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 31 wherein the guide further comprises a distal tip having a protrusion from the inner curvature of guide to push against the patient's vallecula and thereby lift the patient's epiglottis from the glottis.

34. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 31 wherein the laryngeal mask further comprises opposing side portions to pinch the patient's epiglottis between

the side portions of the laryngeal mask as the guide is inserted into the patient's laryngopharynx to thereby lift the epiglottis from the glottis.

35. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 31 wherein the laryngeal mask is inflatable.

36. (new) The laryngeal mask airway of claim 31 wherein the laryngeal mask comprises a soft, resilient material.

37. (new) A method for resuscitating a patient and simultaneously guiding insertion of an endotracheal tube into the patient's trachea comprising:

- inserting a tubular guide into a patient's mouth and hypopharynx, said guide having a curved distal portion shaped to allow insertion of an endotracheal tube through the guide into a patient's trachea, said guide further having a laryngeal mask surrounding the distal opening of the guide;

- inflating said mask to create a substantially air-tight seal about the glottis and the distal opening of the guide

- inserting an endotracheal tube through a seal ring at the proximal end of the guide creating a substantially air-tight seal about the endotracheal tube and the proximal opening of the guide

- advancing the endotracheal tube along the guide and into the patient's trachea;

- supplying air/oxygen via the guide into the patient's lungs via a ventilation port adjacent to the proximal opening of the guide while advancing the endotracheal tube; and

- supplying air/oxygen through the endotracheal tube to ventilate the patient after the endotracheal tube has been advanced into the trachea.

38. (new) The method of claim 37 further comprising the steps of:

- attaching a removable cap to the proximal end of the endotracheal tube prior to insertion; and



removing the cap from the endotracheal tube prior to ventilating the patient through the endotracheal tube.

39. (new) The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of removing the guide from the endotracheal tube once the endotracheal tube has been advanced into the trachea.